

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 308025
ORIGIN CU-03

INFO OCT-01 AF-08 ISO-00 USIA-06 /018 R

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R 211638Z DEC 76
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY LAGOS

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OEXC, NI

SUBJECT: US FESTAC REPRESENTATION

REF: LAGOS 14101

1. IN CONVERSATION WITH DEPTOFFS DECEMBER 20, DONALDSON

AGREED TO ACCEPT DEPT'S OFFER OF ONE CHARTER FLIGHT FOR PARTICIPANTS IN FESTAC. HE INDICATED U.S. COMMITTEE STILL ATTEMPTING RAISE MONEY FOR THREE ADDITIONAL FLIGHTS NEEDED TO CARRY ALL 800 PARTICIPANTS TO LAOS. DONALDSON SAID U.S. COMMITTEE WOULD SELECT THE 252 PARTICIPANTS WHO WOULD TAKE PART IN EVERY MAJOR ASPECT OF FESTIVAL ACTIVITY EXCEPT CINEMA. WE EMPHASIZED THAT CHARTER FLIGHT WE FINANCING IS TO BE FOR PARTICIPANTS NOT OTHER CATEGORIES OF PERSONNEL, AND THAT PASSENGER LIST MIGHT WELL BE INSPECTED LATER TO MAKE CERTAIN THIS CONDITION HAD BEEN COMPLIED WITH. DONALDSON STATED HE UNDERSTOOD THAT.
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2. DONALDSON ALSO INDICATED COMMITTEE'S READINESS FOR OUR PROPOSED AUDIT, WHICH WE INFORMED HIM WILL BEGIN JANUARY 4. THIS IS EARLIEST DATE POSSIBLE GIVEN TIGHT SCHEDULE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL'S OFFICE.

3. DEPTOFF HAS PHONED GROUP-TRAVEL SERVICE, DETROIT FIRM, WHICH HAD ORIGINALLY INTENDED TO FILL FOUR DC-8S WITH TOURISTS TO FESTIVAL. HOWEVER, DEMAND SO FAR HAS ONLY FILLED TWO AIRCRAFT. GROUP TRAVEL SERVICE HAS OFFERED TO MAKE ONE AVAILABLE TO DEPT FOR DOLS 120,000, AND TO PUT IT AT DISPOSITION OF U.S. COMMITTEE. DONALDSON HAS AGREED TO THIS PROPOSAL, AND WE EXPECT TO FIRM UP ARRANGEMENT AND ISSUE GTR SHORTLY, FOR DOLS 120,000, IF NECESSARY.

4. AT THIS POINT, WE REALLY HAVE NO IDEA IF DONALDSON WILL PULL RABBIT OUT OF HAT AND PRODUCE MONEY FOR ADDITIONAL CHARTER. IT IS POSSIBLE DONALDSON WILL REQUEST LOAN FROM NIGERIAN GOVERNMENT FOR ADDITIONAL CHARTER. HOWEVER, IF NO ADDITIONAL MONEY IS RAISED, THEN U.S. REPRESENTATION WILL BE 252 PARTICIPANTS, ARRIVING O/A JANUARY 13 IN LAGOS TO SPEND TWO WEEKS. AS SOON AS WE HAVE INFORMATION ON PASSENGER LIST INCLUDING ANY "BIG NAMES," WE WILL INFORM EMBASSY.

5. WE ARE PURSUING MATTER OF INVITATION TO ASSISTANT SECRETARY RICHARDSON AND TO VIP'S MENTIONED IN LAGOS 14120. CAN EMBASSY INFORM US IF THE INVITATION IS FOR JANUARY 15? OR IS IT NOT SPECIFIED? PLEASE ADVISE.
KISSINGER

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